



Free Lions

THE ENGLAND FANZINE FROM THE FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 167



FSA

FOOTBALL
SUPPORTERS'
ASSOCIATION

SWITZERLAND V ENGLAND
9TH JUNE 2019

PORTO METRO MAP



WELCOME TO THE LATEST EDITION OF FREE LIONS ^{no. 167}



...the **free** England fanzine
produced and distributed by
the **Football Supporters'**
Association (FSA) as part of
our **Fans' Embassy** service

Switzerland v England

**Estadio D. Afonso Henriques,
Guimarães**

Sunday, 9th June 2019

Kick-off 14:00, local time

**England will probably
play in WHITE**



Useful Numbers

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SR2 7DE**

IT WASN'T ME

The Free Lions fanzine is produced by the Football Supporters' Association (FSA), the national membership-based organisation for fans. We have tried to ensure the accuracy of all the information provided in this fanzine, but can accept no responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience suffered by anyone relying on

AND welcome back to Guimarães, for another match that none of us wanted to be in, another 3rd and 4th place play-off, another "losers' final". Getting to the semi-finals of two consecutive competitions might be a considerable step forward compared to recent history, but it's still a bit crap when you lose them – so near, and yet so far.

We'd had great plans for a really special edition of Free Lions marking an appearance in a final, and offering all the guide material and information about Porto that you could ever want. Instead of which, it's back to Guimarães only three days after the Dutch disappointment.

Not much will have changed in Guimarães since then – with the possible exception, we hope, of the weather – and as a consequence those of you who read the last

edition of Free Lions may recognise some of what you're reading here. This edition had to be with the printers less than twelve hours after the end of the game, so you'll have to excuse us if we haven't completely rewritten all of the guide material.

We have however updated it all, so that it now reflects our experiences from Thursday – and there's comment on the events in Porto the night before too.

Of course if you weren't at the Holland game and you've just travelled out for the final weekend, then this will all be shiny and new to you – we hope it makes your trip to Guimarães that bit easier and more enjoyable.

As always, we're available to help if you need us – we're contactable around the clock on our helpline: **+44 7956 121314**. Have fun!



COVER STORY

Ice cool from the spot against Colombia in Moscow last summer, Marcus Rashford repeated the trick in Guimarães to give England a first-half lead. The Manchester United striker converted from 12 yards after being taken down by Matthijs De Ligt, but was withdrawn at the break and was later seen limping away from the stadium.

THANK YOU

As ever, this fanzine has been a team effort. This edition was edited by Kevin Miles, and thanks are due to Phil Rowley; Clive Hetherington, Joe Hetherington; Harpreet Robertson, Tony Conniford; Joe Stokoe; Gillian Herculano, Sandra Magalhaes; Ashley Brown, Thomas Smith; Peter Daykin.



STONES THROW-AWAY

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON



It was a Stones throw-away as England suffered a self-inflicted 3-1 defeat to The Netherlands in their Nations League semi-final.

Manchester City centre-back John Stones was in the dock after losing possession to one-time derby rival Memphis Depay, and despite goalkeeper Jordan Pickford's save, substitute Quincy Promes pounced to force the ball in off the unfortunate Kyle Walker as the right-back desperately tried to deal with the danger.

That gave the Dutch the lead seven minutes into extra-time as they came from behind, defender Matthijs de Ligt having atoned in the 73rd minute for the concession of a penalty that was converted by Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford.

And a further blunder at the back by Chelsea midfielder Ross Barkley

in the 114th minute presented Depay with the chance to set up Promes for an open-goal finish to kill off England's hopes.

Courtesy of Rashford's 32nd-minute spot-kick, Gareth Southgate's Three Lions had been heading for a third-time-lucky bid to foil old foe Cristiano Ronaldo, who was in the Portugal sides that beat England on penalties in the quarter-finals of Euro 2004 and the 2006 World Cup.

Instead, it is the Dutch providing the opposition for the Portuguese hosts in the inaugural Nations League final in Porto, while England contest third place with Switzerland in Guimaraes.

Former England central defender Jamie Carragher, speaking on Sky Sports, slammed Stones for "stupid" decision-making, saying: "The goals didn't come from

England taking risks and playing out from the back. The goals came from stupid decisions.

"John Stones was facing his goalkeeper – just pass to him. That had nothing to do with the argument that they should have gone long. He's made a stupid mistake turning and trying to be clever."

And ex-England midfielder Jamie Redknapp said: "There's a reason Virgil van Dijk is the best defender in the world. It's because he doesn't take liberties. In that situation, do you think he would have tried to pirouette on the ball?"

The build-up to the game had been overshadowed by violent scenes involving so-called England fans in Porto and a gaffe on the part of a public relations firm acting for Colossal Sports Management, who represent Raheem Sterling.

Never mind the England management, the PR people for Sterling's camp were reported to have released news 48 hours before the match that he was to captain his country for the first time on his 50th Three Lions appearance – another colossal clanger, you might say.

It caused a "fuming" Sterling and Southgate palpable embarrassment, with the Man. City forward apologising to the England boss.

Sterling took the armband as Southgate rested skipper Harry

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CLIVE HETHERINGTON?
CONTACT CLIVE VIA [FRELIONS@FSFORG.UK](mailto:freelions@fsforg.uk)



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Stones was caught underneath the ball, but de Ligt headed wide.

It was Rashford, not Chilwell, who was missing for the start of the second period as Kane made his entrance. And Chilwell was under the spotlight when The Netherlands felt they might have had a penalty of their own in the 51st minute, the Leicester left-back looking to have felled Steven Bergwijn on the edge of the box.

But England should have doubled their lead when Jadon Sancho's close-range header was straight at Cillessen. Walker was then robbed by former Man. United striker Depay, but Pickford made the save.

Jesse Lingard replaced Sancho shortly after the hour as England dropped deeper and began to look like a side desperate to hold what they had.

But they paid for that as de Ligt rose to head in Depay's outswinging corner and it would have been worse before long had substitute Donny van de Beek not blazed over to the despair of Koeman.

It was anguish for England, though, in the 83rd minute when Barkley found Lingard, who beat Cillessen clinically before VAR intervened to confirm the Man. United player was offside.

Depay spurned an opportunity to win the game in stoppage time before Sterling, who had been quiet on the whole, skimmed the bar with a good strike. But extra-

time arrived and with it more woe as Stones turned into trouble with disastrous consequences.

Pickford pulled off a tremendous reaction save from Depay's header but Barkley, like Stones, was sloppy and similarly punished.

Former England coach and right-back Gary Neville, another of the Sky Sports pundits, had no argument with Southgate's starting selection.

He said: "I think it was sensible. It's such a big distraction, the Champions League final, and a physical and mental ask for the players who were involved.

"The build-up to it is enormous, it's a huge event in its own right, and the lads who have been here longer, training with the camp, are the ones he trusted and, to be fair, you can't disagree or deny that it was the right thing to do."

SCOUSE PHIL'S FREE LIONS NATIONS LEAGUE MUSIC QUIZ

PAGE 6

To celebrate England's appearance in the inaugural Nations League, Scouse Phil has provided us with a music quiz in which all the questions, answers or indeed both contain at least one of the words 'nation' or 'league'.



Question 7:
Susan Ann Sulley



Question 7:
Joanne Catherall



Question 3:
Olivia Newton John



Question 3:
The Rolling Stones

1 Many football chants are sung to the tune of 'Seven Nation Army', but which US band brought out the original song in 2003?

2 Which English punk band, fronted by lead singer Animal, had various hits including 'Streets of London', 'Woman' and 'We Are The League'?

3 'I'm going to take my problem to the United Nations' is a line from which Eddie Cochran classic, which has been covered by many artists including Olivia Newton John, The Who and The Rolling Stones?

4 English composer Joby Talbot created the theme tune and score for which British comedy series set in the fictional town of Royston Vasey?

5 'Here's our invitation, throw your safety overboard and join our insect nation' are lyrics from which Adam and the Ants Number One hit?

6 French anarchist Eugene Pottier wrote the lyrics in 1871 for which left wing anthem, that also shares its name with a 1990 album by Billy Bragg?

7 Susan Ann Sulley and Joanne Catherall are members of which band formed in Sheffield in 1977 that had numerous hits including 'Don't You Want Me?' and 'Mirror Man'?

8 What tune resounds around various grounds across Europe and was written by English composer Tony Britten in 1992, based on Handel's 'Zartok the Priest'?

9 Still one of the best-selling debut albums of all time, what was the title of Ace of Base's 1992 album: 'Happy Nation', 'Rhythm Nation' or 'Young Nation'?

10 'One nation controlled by the media, information age of hysteria' are lyrics from which 2004 Top Five hit by Green Day?

Answers can be found on page 15



FANS' EMBASSIES PORTUGAL & FRANCE

PAGE 7



The Fans' Embassy in Portugal

FOR the benefit of the apparently very many new England fans following the team abroad for the first time – a big welcome to the party, by the way – we thought we'd better explain what this Free Lions magazine and the fans' embassy is all about.

The fans' embassy is organised by the Football Supporters' Association as a "by fans, for fans" service providing information, advice and support for travelling England fans.

We've been doing this for getting on for thirty years now, so we have a fair idea of what's required for a successful trip.



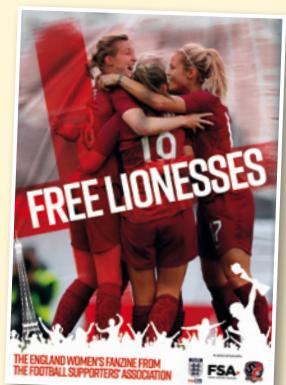
...and in France

FREE Lionesses is the naughty little sister of Free Lions and we will be running our first fans' embassy out in France this year when the Lionesses take on the world at the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup.

We will be providing supporters with a gluten-free – and of course free of charge – essential fans' guide to following England at the Women's World Cup as well as providing an opportunity to report

and get assistance with any issues may face during their stay in France.

Free Lionesses has been put together by fans, for fans. We're delighted to be in France at our first women's tournament following Phil Neville and his team, hopefully all the way to Lyon on 7th July. For more in-depth information, updated throughout the run-up to the tournament, head to our website – bit.ly/freelionesses and make sure you follow us on twitter – @FreeLionesses.



PLEASE – DON'T BE A DICK

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR IN PORTO



HERE at Free Lions we were really disappointed that last Thursday morning, as we got up ready for England's first match day in the Nations League finals, the media coverage from Porto was all focused on anti-social behaviour by England fans the previous evening.

We've made our opinions on these issues fairly clear over the years. English football fans have over the last decade or so developed a great reputation around the world for the numbers in which we travel, the passion we demonstrate in supporting our team, and our ability to party enthusiastically well into the night.

We have largely overcome the previous (sadly historically deserved) reputation for hooliganism and violence and have gone on to make friends in country after country. We have a lot to be proud of.

We have also proved through countless examples that we are capable of visiting far-flung corners of Europe and even the world to support our team in exactly the right spirit. The World Cup in Russia last summer was a fine illustration of that.

Unfortunately it seems that more recently, when we've played in some of the more easily accessible venues, then we have attracted a new layer of predominantly younger fans whose behaviour and attitudes have undermined much of what we've achieved, and who have proved to be an embarrassment to the team and to the country.

Anti-social behaviour, ranging from disrespect for our hosts, through offensive chanting to acts of violence, has nothing to do with football, does nothing to support the team, and makes us enemies, not friends.

Once again in the media we have seen condemnation of "English football fans", based on the shameful

behaviour of a minority of dickheads who apparently think that they demonstrate pride in their country by behaving abusively abroad.

For twenty years now, Free Lions has defended England fans whenever we feel we've been badly or unfairly treated – whether by the police in other countries, by foreign hooligans, or by the media or politicians. Regular travellers with England know from long experience whose side we're on.

But we will also call out those who call themselves England fans whose behaviour damages our reputation. Most England fans in Portugal this week weren't part of the incidents that took place in that fan zone in Porto, didn't witness them, probably weren't even aware of them, and certainly don't condone them. But for us the most galling aspect of them is that the rest of us will all suffer, one way or another, because of the reputation perpetuated by this minority of idiots.

We unreservedly condemn the incidents of anti-social behaviour and violent disorder that have taken place in Porto this week. That's not how we want England fans to behave or to be perceived. We're better than that.

So please: follow England away. Get behind the team, enjoy the party. And be aware of how your behaviour impacts on the rest of us. Don't be a dick.



WELCOME TO GUIMARÃES

THE FREE LIONS GUIDE TO ENGLAND'S FIRST HOST VENUE

WELOCOME to Guimarães, the historic 'birthplace of Portugal', a UNESCO World Heritage Site, European City of Culture 2012, and for the purpose of your visit, venue for our UEFA Nations League third place play-off against Switzerland.

Guimarães is the birthplace of Dom Afonso Henriques, who won the recognition by Spain of Portugal as a separate kingdom in 1143 and then declared the city his capital. It's no wonder they named the football ground after him.

It's not a massive place – the population is only around 160,000 – and although it's a university city, the historic centre is quaint and picturesque rather than busy and bustling.

The arrival of thousands of English fans will again transform the city for another day, with the small



Largo do Toural

squares in the middle of town likely to be full to the brim.

There's not really a huge amount for football tourists to do in **Guimarães**, and accommodation is in short supply. We expect the majority of English fans will again travel in and out on the day, spending the days either side of the semi-final in **Porto**, or even

further afield in **Lisbon** or down on the **Algarve**.

As outlined on page 16, extra trains have been arranged in and out of **Porto**, and provision has been made for parking coaches and a limited number of cars at the **Pavilhão Multiusos de Guimarães** to the south-west of the city centre.

FSA FANS' EMBASSY

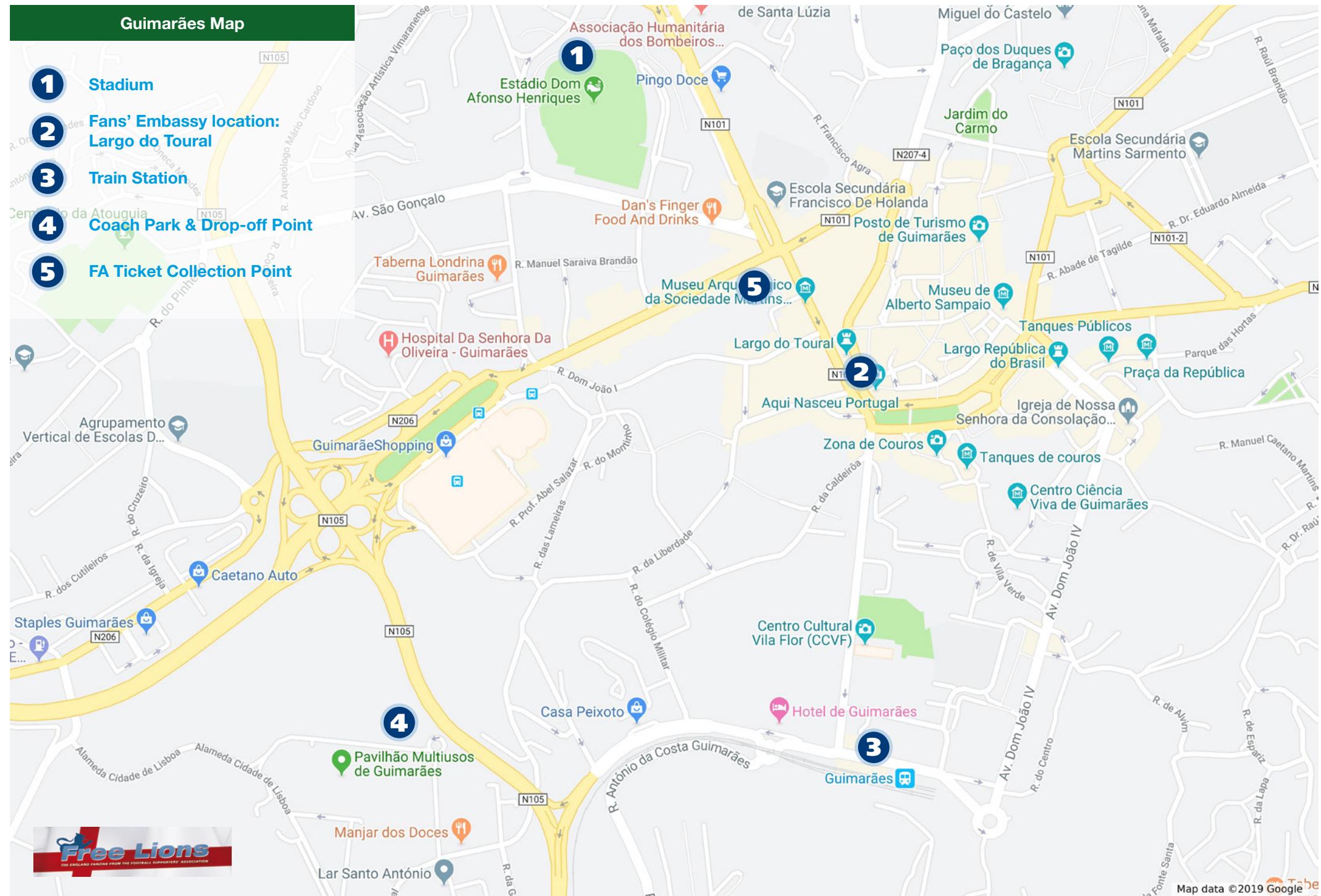
THE FSA's fans'embassy will be based in **Guimarães** on match day between 10:00 and noon at Largo do Toural. On the day before the game, we'll be based both in **Guimarães** at Largo do Toural, between around 13:00 and 17:00, and also in **Porto** at similar times, working from Alfandega to Ribeira on the north bank of the Douro river.

As always, the fans' embassy will be contactable for information, advice and assistance around the clock, via the 24-hour helpline on +44 7956 121314.



Guimarães Map

- 1 **Stadium**
- 2 **Fans' Embassy location: Largo do Toural**
- 3 **Train Station**
- 4 **Coach Park & Drop-off Point**
- 5 **FA Ticket Collection Point**



WELCOME TO GUIMARÃES

THE FREE LIONS GUIDE TO ENGLAND'S FIRST HOST VENUE



PAGE 12

THE STADIUM



THE Estadio D. Afonso Henriques was originally purpose-built for football in 1965, and to become a Euro 2004 venue was subsequently renovated and enlarged in 2003, by the architect coincidentally named Eduardo Guimarães (who also designed some of the 2014 World Cup stadiums in Brazil).

It takes its name from the first King of Portugal, Dom Afonso Henriques, a native of Guimarães who reigned between 1139 and 1185 and who is honoured by a statue outside the ground.

The all-seater stadium has a capacity of 30,165 and is home to club side Vitoria SC de Guimarães, (not to be confused with Vitoria FC of Setubal). Vitoria SC finished last season in fifth place in the Portuguese Liga and enjoy the

fourth highest home attendances in the Liga (after the 'big three' of Benfica, Porto and Sporting Lisbon). Vitoria were formed in 1922, and their main rivals are nearby SC Braga.

The stadium hosted two games in Euro 2004, both involving Italy – a 0-0 draw with Denmark and their 2-1 victory over Bulgaria, and it has also hosted half a dozen games involving the Portuguese national team, most recently their 1-1 draw against Poland last November.

Tragedy befell the stadium in January 2004, when a Benfica substitute Miklos Feher collapsed and died shortly after coming on during a league game. Every time Benfica play in Guimarães, a remembrance ceremony is held on the spot where Feher collapsed.

GETTING TO THE GROUND

GUIMARÃES is a small and compact city, and the stadium is only about a ten-minute walk from the historical centre, 15 minutes from the railway station and 20-25 minutes from the bus drop-off point at the Pavilhão Multiusos de Guimarães. In fact, pretty much everything you might want to do in Guimarães can be managed on foot.

A bigger challenge would have appeared to be getting to Guimarães in the first place, as there isn't a great abundance of accommodation in the venue itself, and therefore - as was the case on Thursday - many England fans will have to travel in and out on the day.

There is a regular train and bus service between Porto and Guimarães, but in addition to that, the authorities locally have arranged eight extra trains, each with a capacity of about a thousand, between the two cities exclusively for England fans (ticket holders only).

These trains will depart from Porto São Bento station between 09:05 and 11:30 on match day, calling also at Estacio de Campanha before heading nonstop to Guimarães, with a journey time of about an hour.

The same eight trains will return from Guimarães after the game, departing between 17:37 and

21:10. These trains will be free to match ticket holders, and we are told that these trains will not be 'dry' trains.

Parking is very limited in Guimarães, so the use of public transport is advised.



GROUND RULES

THE gates will open two hours before kick-off, at 12:00. Up to fifteen thousand English fans are expected at this game (that's the combined total of tickets sold to ESTC members by the FA and those sold to UK addresses from the UEFA public sale), so we should account for a hefty chunk of the stadium, and we seem likely to outnumber the Swiss fans.

Coming to the ground from the city centre, most English fans will arrive at Access B, but entry can be made by any access point, so if entrance B is very congested, it's well worth going past it

towards the left to Access A, or the right to Access C, D, E and F, where queues are likely to be significantly shorter.

At the first outer perimeter, there will be a ticket check and validation, and this is where the Bluetooth activation of tickets will take place.

The body searches will be carried out inside that perimeter, before the turnstiles.

The usual UEFA list of restricted items will apply – given the potential for problems with phone batteries running out thereby denying access to electronic tickets, we have been assured that mobile power packs will be allowed, as long as they are "small and safe (they don't explode or go on fire)".

The maximum bag size that will be admitted is described as 'A4 size'. Bags any bigger than that (within reason) will be stored free of charge

at deposit points at Access B and G. There is no alcohol on sale inside the stadium.

Entry can be refused to anyone who appears to be drunk; those suspected of being too drunk to enter can be breathalysed, with the limit set at about one and a half times the UK level for driving. It is permitted to drink alcohol on the streets.

The use of pyrotechnics is illegal both within football grounds and on the streets outside.

It is a legal requirement in Portugal to carry photo ID with you at all times. In most cases a photocopy of the data page of your passport will be enough, but you could be asked to produce the original. A photo driving licence will usually also suffice.





EATING AND DRINKING

MATCH day in Guimarães is likely to see pretty much all of the squares in the historic centre swamped by England fans. The bars in the area are generally quite small, but some have terraces and seated areas outside that will accommodate a good number.

As we've mentioned elsewhere in these pages, drinking in public places is permitted in Portugal, so another option will be to pop into a supermarket or off licence and stock up there, with a view to finding a space in a square away from the congested bars.

Porto is a different prospect altogether, with a bigger concentration of bars, and the supporters of English club sides who have played here have always tended to congregate in the same area known as Ribeira, or riverside. Unsurprisingly, this area is near the **river Douro**, either side of the **Luis I Bridge** and to the south of the **Sao Bento railway station**. There are loads of bars and restaurants here in the narrow, cobbled streets of the oldest part of the city.

Another option is the area around the university, where again unsurprisingly a lot of the student bars and clubs are located; the **Rua da Galeria de Paris** is known locally as 'the street of bars'.



THINGS TO SEE AND DO

If you've been staying in **Porto** then you'll have had a few non-match days to fill, and you'll know there's no shortage of things to see and do.

The obvious and traditional one is to sample the port wine for which the city is so famous; there are a number of port houses that offer tours and tastings, and there's even a port wine museum just along from where the fans' embassy will be based at **Alfandega**. Nearby you'll also find the **Museum of Transports and Communications**, which hosts an impressive collection of classic cars.

If you fancy a day trip out of the city (other than to **Guimarães**, of

course) then we would recommend **Braga**: it's a beautiful historic city, very picturesque, and very relaxed, despite being Portugal's third biggest city.

It's easily reached by train, and if you do venture up there, be sure to have a look at the football stadium, in a spectacular setting cut into a hill, with no stands at either end.

Hopefully there will be at least one or two days of sun while we're here – beach weather, perhaps – and you don't have to go very far to find a stretch of sand to lie on. The nearest is **Praia do Carneiro** at **Foz do Douro**, at the mouth of the river where it reaches the Atlantic; it's only 6km from the city centre, less than half an hour by bus number 500 from **Sao Bento** station.



GETTING AROUND

OUR best advice for getting around **Guimarães** is just to walk it; the city centre is compact, and the longest distance we can imagine anyone wanting to cover (such as from the coach drop-off point to the stadium via the historical centre) wouldn't take any more than half an hour.

There's no Metro system in **Guimarães**, and many of the roads are set to be closed on match day anyway.

Porto is once again different in this regard, and the key to getting around here is the Metro system. To travel on the Metro, you'll need to buy the **Porto** equivalent of London's Oyster card, known here as an Andante card; they're available from machines at train and Metro stations, but also from many shops. The card itself costs only €0.50, and then you can load it with as much as you think you'll need, bearing in mind each

individual journey costs €1.20 (buy ten and you get one free).

You'll need to validate your ticket against one of the scanners for each journey (no need to scan it on the way out), and each such journey can last up to one hour from the time of validation.

Andante cards are also valid on buses, at the same rate of €1.20 per journey lasting an hour. One journey can involve Metros, trains and buses inside the hour for the cost of one journey, but you'll need to scan your card on entering each new vehicle.

Taxis in **Porto** are plentiful, and can be hailed on the street if their green light indicating availability is lit; otherwise look out for one of the many taxi ranks or "praca de taxis".

Taxis aren't cheap though; there's an initial hire charge of €2.50, and then it's on the meter: there shouldn't be any need to agree a price beforehand, just check the meter's on.

Answers

1. White Stripes 2. Anti-Nowhere League 3. Music Quiz (P6) 4. The League of Gentlemen 5. Stand and Deliver 6. The International 7. Human League 8. Champions League 9. Happy Nation 10. American Idiot

1. Arsenal 2. Aston Villa 3. Antonio Conte 4. Alex

Woods 5. Salford City 6. Paul Pogba of Manchester

7. United 8. Steph Houghton 8. Anisley Maitland-Niles

9. Cove Rangers 10. Nick Barmby



GUIMARÃES: WHAT WE LEARNT

REFLECTIONS ON OUR SEMI-FINAL EXPERIENCE

Going was easier than getting back

THE free trains provided to travel from Porto to Guimarães worked pretty well. On Thursday, there were ten special trains provided running at intervals between 11:05 and 15:50, with a journey time of about an hour, and Sunday's game will see a similar provision of eight special trains starting from 09:05.

The special trains are free to match ticket holders, but people due to pick up their tickets in Guimarães were able to use them too as long as they had some proof of purchase. There are no buffet facilities on the trains, but you can take your own drinks with you.

The return journeys didn't run quite so smoothly, with major congestion

at the station and poor management of the queues leading to some crushing, then serious overcrowding of the first couple of trains to depart.

On the way there, the numbers using the trains were fairly evenly spread across the timetable, but after the game – with a late finish, the disappointing result and the fact that most of us were soaked through – it seemed that everyone wanted to jump straight onto a train, and very few people wanted to wait for the later ones.

With Sunday being an early kick off, and likely to be accompanied by improved weather, this will hopefully encourage some fans to stay on to enjoy the local hospitality whatever the result. Assuming this is the case, we expect some will opt to take the later trains, thus staggering the number of fans heading to the station.



São Bento Station

If you are planning to travel up by car, be aware that the centre of town had very little parking space to offer, and also some roads in the centre were closed for a while after the match. It might be better finding somewhere on the edge of town and walking up to the stadium from there.

The timetable of special trains on Sunday is included here (NB only special trains are free to match ticket holders):

To Guimarães	Stopper	Stopper	Special	Special	Special	Special	Stopper	Special	Special	Special	Special	Special	Stopper
Porto (S Bento)	07:20	08:20	09:05	09:20	10:05	10:15	10:20	10:35	11:05	11:20	11:30	12:20	
Porto (Campanha)	07:25	08:25	09:10	09:25	10:10	10:20	10:25	10:40	11:10	11:25	11:35	12:25	
Contumil	07:28	08:28					10:28					12:28	

Guimarães	08:36	09:36	10:08	10:23	11:02	11:11	11:33	11:40	12:04	12:20	12:32	13:36	

To Porto	Stopper	Special	Stopper	Special	Special	Special	Stopper	Special	Special	Special	Special	Stopper	Stopper
Guimarães	15:48	17:37	17:48	18:15	18:25	18:50	19:18	19:48	20:10	20:37	21:10	21:48	22:48

Contumil	16:57		18:57					20:56				22:57	23:57
Porto (Campanha)	17:01	18:25	19:01	19:05	19:10	19:45	20:15	21:00	21:05	21:25	22:00	23:01	00:01
Porto (S Bento)	17:05	18:30	19:05	19:10	19:15	19:50	20:20	21:05	21:10	21:30	22:05	23:05	00:05



The sun doesn't always shine

GUIMARÃES is not a big town, and its best hope of coping with a massive influx of England fans would have been for the local bars to make full use of their outdoor space to allow visitors to drink outside in the sunshine.

The problem on Thursday was that there wasn't any sunshine, as it rained pretty much constantly from late morning right through to the end of the game. As a result, people were having to take shelter anywhere they could, and with the many small bars packed beyond any comfortable limits, a lot of other outlets like bakers and mini-supermarkets turned themselves into hostels for a few hours.

The weather forecast for Sunday is significantly better, so with a bit of luck the main square (Largo do Toural) and the many smaller spaces in the old town should offer a really pleasant setting for any pre- and post-match refreshment.

The local people were very friendly and helpful, and seemed very ready to react positively to respectful visitors. They were also very enterprising, with most of the bars in the central area seeming to have agreed on an across-the-board price increase for beer at €5 a pint. At the time of going to press, we were unable to check exactly what licensing restrictions might be in force on a Sunday, but we can remind

you that drinking in public is legally permitted, so a visit to an off-licence or supermarket might suit your needs.

Mobile phone tickets aren't quite the nightmare we'd feared

BEFORE we arrived here, there were plenty of people who were convinced that the new electronic ticketing system, with its Bluetooth activation and other weird and wonderful new developments, was a disaster waiting to happen.

As it turned out, it seemed to work remarkably smoothly (and wasn't responsible for the difficulties on entering the stadium, of which more in a minute).

We did encounter a few people whose phones were either lost, stolen or broken and who feared the worst. It turned out that if you do have a problem accessing your ticket in your phone, then this can be resolved by UEFA at the ticketing office near the stadium. You'll need your ID and ideally some confirmation of your purchase, but they should be able to print you a paper version of your ticket. Note two things though:

allow plenty of time, as the UEFA ticketing office only has three counters available and they do get busy; and secondly, the English FA are not able to help with this issue, it has to be UEFA.

It's well worth getting to the ground early

ON Thursday quite a few people missed the start of the game due to delays getting into the stadium.

There were a number of problems, though surprisingly the technology wasn't one of them. Some of the entry procedures, including the searches, were quite time-consuming, and more access points and stewards doing the searching would have helped.

The simplest way to avoid any hassle is of course to arrive in good time and take your seat.

One thing we did learn though that when there was a build-up of late arrivals at the ground, and people began to become frustrated at the prospect of missing the kick-off, then there was a bit of a breakdown of some of the entry controls, and the police became a bit heavy-handed in dealing with fans. That shouldn't happen, of course, but again the best way we can help avoid it happening again is by making sure we get to the ground early.

If you have a flag to hang up they are permitted, but the maximum size is 2m x 1.5m, and they will be checked. Unfortunately, there is no option to go in early to hang it and come back out. Once you are in, you are in!



SWITZERLAND ECLIPSED

BY CLIVE HETHERINGTON



occasion and, at any given time give you goals like he does, it's amazing."

It was a pity for Vladimir Petkovic's Switzerland, who produced an enterprising performance but, once more, it was Ronaldo's night.

When former Newcastle left-back Kevin Mbabu was harshly penalised for bringing him down, it was the perfect range for the Portuguese talisman to dole out the desired punishment with a free-kick that dipped to deceive wrong-footed keeper Yann Sommer.

The Swiss responded with striker Haris Seferovic glancing a shot off the bar before Ronaldo returned the pressure with a cunning centre for debutant forward Joao Felix. But Seferovic's Benfica clubmate – aged 19 and one of the world's hottest prospects – squandered the chance.

VAR took centre stage amid early drama in the second half – as did another Felix. Ronaldo was readying himself to take a penalty after Manchester City's Bernardo Silva went down under Newcastle defender Fabian Schar's challenge and referee

Felix Brych pointed to the spot. But attention suddenly switched to the other end and, at great length, the German official reviewed an incident from moments earlier when Switzerland midfielder Steven Zuber tumbled after Nelson Semedo seemed to make the slightest contact.

The penalty went to the Swiss, not Portugal, and Rodriguez was just good enough to beat Wolves keeper Rui Patrício.

It was pure VAR-ce – but Ronaldo still prevailed. Silva took only two touches to deliver the cross and Ronaldo needed just one to drill home and, in the 90th minute, he cut in on the left to find the far corner with a precision finish.

Portugal are now unbeaten in nine games since Uruguay eliminated them from last summer's World Cup in the first knockout phase.

Goals had been hard to come by for Fernando Santos' side, however, with the reigning European champions registering only two in four straight draws –

>> CLIVE'S VERDICT

Prediction: England 2 Switzerland 2

England have won their last three encounters with the Swiss without conceding and have gone unbeaten in 11, all the way back to a World Cup qualifying defeat in 1981. Ron Greenwood's Three Lions were 2-0 down in the first half hour in Basel,

and Terry McDermott's second-half effort was scarcely any consolation. The current Switzerland side have flair and firepower and this could go all the way.

England to win on penalties!

ENGLAND are back in Guimarães for a Nations League third-place play-off against a Switzerland side eclipsed by the enduring brilliance of Cristiano Ronaldo, who singlehandedly secured a 3-1 victory for Portugal at Porto's Estadio do Dragão.

AC Milan left-back Ricardo Rodriguez's controversial, VAR-assisted penalty in the 57th minute brought the Swiss level after Ronaldo, making his Nations League bow, handed the hosts a 25th-minute lead.

But Portugal's skipper, 34, ripped the game away from Liverpool's Xherdan Shaqiri and Co. in the closing stages with two goals in two minutes to complete a majestic hat-trick – the 53rd of his career at club and international level.

Former England striker Emile Heskey, speaking on Sky Sports, said: "It probably wasn't Ronaldo's best performance, but when you have a player like that, who can rise to the

AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH CLIVE HETHERINGTON?
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>> SWITZERLAND – THE KEY THREE by Joe Hetherington



XHERDAN SHAQIRI

Largely performed the role of bit-part player in a momentous season for Liverpool, but quite the opposite is true when it comes to his national team. The 27-year-old is the most experienced player in the Swiss squad in terms of caps, and also has more goals than anyone else in the current roster with 22 strikes, one of which being his incredible bicycle-kick against Poland at Euro 2016. The tricky winger won the Bundesliga twice during his time at Bayern Munich before having a short spell at Inter Milan, from where he transferred to Stoke City in 2015.



GRANIT XHAKA

Fiery in midfield for Arsenal, Xhaka is just as combative for his country. The

26-year-old began his career at hometown club Basel where he caught the attention of Borussia Monchengladbach. The Gunners reportedly gave the German side £30m for Xhaka in 2016, and he won the FA Cup in his first season with Arsenal. Xhaka and his teammate Xherdan Shaqiri caused a stir at the 2018 World Cup with politically-motivated goal celebrations against Serbia, and both were punished for their actions. Perhaps surprisingly, the midfielder has a double-figure goal tally for Switzerland.



RICARDO RODRIGUEZ

A true, modern full-back, Rodriguez is just as comfortable attacking as he is defending. Like many players in his national side, he has transferred from a Swiss club to a team in Germany during his career, in his case moving from FC Zurich to Wolfsburg in 2012. Currently contracted to AC Milan, the 26-year-old made his international debut in 2011 in a 2-0 loss to Wales, and he scored an equaliser from the penalty spot against Portugal in his last game. Could have chosen to play for either Spain or Chile through the nationalities of his parents.

Iceland, they lost 1-0 to England in a Wembley friendly.

Then came a 2-1 setback in Belgium in the Nations League and, after winning by that score-line against Iceland, they suffered a surprise 1-0 home friendly loss to 2022 World Cup hosts Qatar.

But after belting Belgium 5-2 – in which Seferovic hit a hat-trick – and a 2-0 win in Georgia and 3-3 home draw with Denmark in their opening two Euro 2020 qualifiers, the Swiss were again on an undefeated streak before running into Ronaldo.

the last three at home – ahead of this tournament.

Without Ronaldo, who was on a break from international football after the World Cup to focus on adjusting to his move from Real Madrid to Juventus, Portugal drew 0-0 in Italy and 1-1 at home to Poland in the Nations League, although they repeated that sequence in Euro 2020 qualifiers against Ukraine and Serbia even after he returned.

Portugal's first post-World Cup game was a 1-1 home friendly draw with Croatia, England's conquerors

in Russia. The Portuguese then beat Italy 1-0 and Poland 3-2 in their Nations League openers before a 3-1 friendly victory in Scotland.

Switzerland were on course for a potential meeting with England in Russia but lost 1-0 to Sweden in a last-16 clash, their first defeat since a 2-0 World Cup qualifying loss in Portugal in October 2017 ended a run of nine matches unbeaten.

But the Swiss's form in the wake of the World Cup has been nowhere near as consistent. After launching their Nations League campaign with a 6-0 slaughter of visitors



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SWITZERLAND SQUAD WORDSEARCH

We have here been able to combine a very handy guide to the Swiss squad, including their Nations League finals squad numbers, with a highly entertaining game – finding their surnames hidden in the Wordsearch grid.



1	Yann	SOMMER	Borussia Mgb
12	Yvon	MVOGO	RB Leipzig
21	Jonas	OMLIN	Basel
13	Ricardo	RODRIGUEZ	AC Milan
22	Fabian	SCHAER	Newcastle United
6	Michael	LANG	Borussia Mgb
3	François	MOUBANDJE	Toulouse
5	Manuel	AKANJI	Borussia Dortmund
4	Nico	ELVEDI	Borussia Mgb
2	Kevin	MBABU	Wolfsburg
15	Loris	BENITO	Young Boys
23	Xherdan	SHAQIRI	Liverpool
10	Granit	XHAKA	Arsenal
14	Steven	ZUBER	VfB Stuttgart
17	Denis	ZAKARIA	Borussia Mgb
8	Remo	FREULER	Atalanta
20	Edimilson	FERNANDES	Mainz 05
11	Renato	STEFFEN	Wolfsburg
18	Djibril	SOW	Young Boys
9	Haris	SEFEROVIC	Benfica
19	Josip	DRMIC	Borussia Mgb
16	Albian	AJETI	Basel
7	Noah	OKAFOR	Basel

Scouse Phil's Free Lions Football Quiz (answers on page 15)

- In which city will both the Super Cup final in August and next season's Champions League final be held?
- Prince William was seen supporting which team in the recent play-off finals?
- Which ex-manager of Chelsea has recently been appointed manager of Inter Milan?
- Who scored Arsenal's goal in the Europa League final in May?
- The Peninsula Stadium, or Moor Lane as it's better known, is the home ground of which team who will play in League Two next season?
- Who was the only non-Manchester City or Liverpool player
- named in the PFA Premier League team of the season?
- Who is the captain of the England women's team at the 2019 World Cup Finals?
- Who was the only English player in either starting XI in this season's Europa League final?
- Which team won the Highland League in Scotland this season and have been promoted to Scottish League Two for the 2019-20 season?
- I was born in Hull in 1974, played for various teams including Liverpool, Everton, Spurs and Hull and won 23 England caps between 1995 and 2001 – who am I?